

News Release

UMC Accreditation Site Visit Set for Week of April 24

By Krista Lemos on Thursday, April 20, 2006

CROOKSTON, MN (April 20, 2006) – Peer evaluators will be visiting the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) April 24 - 26, 2006, as part of the accreditation review process by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. This is the final stage in this accreditation evaluation process that includes peer review and a site visit.

Over the last year, UMC has conducted a campus-wide and community effort to prepare a self evaluation report documenting how we assess and advance quality instruction that is future oriented and supports students in achieving their educational goals. The report also demonstrates our ability to use resources efficiently and effectively. UMC's Self-Study Report was submitted to the HLC in February and presented for public comment in March.

During the April visit, the HLC team will meet with the campus community and regional constituents to confirm that what was reported in the self evaluation is being carried out in practice. The group will make sure that UMC is meeting the standards as outlined by HLC as well as consider a request to offer degree programs online, as approved through the University of Minnesota. The goal for the peer evaluation is to secure accreditation for the next 10 years. The HLC team of five members includes administrators from Indiana University East, IN; Mayville State University, ND; Black Hills State University, SD; Buena Vista University, IA; and Potomac State College of West Virginia University, WV.

"The accreditation process is a time for our campus and the communities we work with to celebrate our accomplishments, evaluate our current course and outline plans for the future," says UMC Chancellor Charles H. Casey. "The group will be able to see first hand the opportunities that are being created, the exceptional experiences that are ongoing and our ability to move ahead with confidence."

Institutional accreditation is a comprehensive review by a private, nongovernmental organization specifically created to review higher education institutions and programs for quality. The four University of Minnesota campuses are accredited separately at the institutional level by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. UMC's last comprehensive visit was in 1995 and a focused visit on assessment was conducted in 2000. UMC provided a monitoring report on assessment in 2001 and a progress report on assessment in 2003. HLC accepted these reports.

The University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) is a four-year baccalaureate degree granting institution, celebrating 100 years of excellence in education, research and outreach.

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